

# Proposition 1

## AN OPINION QUESTION TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

### BALLOT TITLE

☐ FOR

☐ AGAINST

Shall Beaver County, Utah, be authorized to impose a quarter of one percent (0.25%) or the equivalent of 1 cent for every \$4 spent) sales and use tax (except on sales of food and food ingredients) for the specific purpose of transportation improvements such as roads, trails, sidewalks, maintenance, and safety features, with the revenues divided among the county, towns and cities?

### ARGUMENT FOR

We all want our children and grandchildren to enjoy a wonderful quality life now and in the future. Utah's cities and counties face a growing population, deteriorating roads, and local budgets that fail to keep up with mounting maintenance costs.

With new funding through Proposition 1 (a sales tax for local transportation), local elected leaders can take better care of our roadways, sidewalks and promote economic prosperity in our community.

Prop 1 will provide a substantial piece of the local transportation puzzle. For just one cent of every four dollars spent - excluding food purchases - we can maintain our local roads and keep our economy moving.

The .25% Local Option Sales Tax is as it states a SALES TAX. It is not an additional gas tax and does not tax food or ingredients used in food preparation.

There are approximately 1,033 miles of county roads, including asphalt, gravel, and dirt. Our cities have approximately 77 miles of roads. Some new construction projects have been put on hold until funds can be secured and requests for maintenance or dust suppressant are challenging to fulfill. Funds generated by the new tax would support projects related to transportation such as trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, road construction and maintenance.

Prop 1 is NOT for the construction of major highways. Prop 1 is dedicated exclusively to our local transportation needs and will provide an additional source of local transportation funding. This is an opportunity to join our local government officials in support of Prop 1.

Two cities in Beaver County passed resolutions requesting Prop 1 be placed on the November ballot. After careful consideration the County Commission decided to put this option on the ballot and let the citizens decide how they want to fund future road projects.

A complaint heard most often by our county and city governments relates to poor road conditions which have been deteriorating for many years. The cost of doing nothing is far higher for the average Utah family than the local option sales tax.

Prop 1 would cost the average person \$40 a year, but our current road disrepair costs the average driver over \$600 more a year in added fuel use, tire wear, and extra car maintenance. In addition, for every dollar we invest now in infrastructure, we save \$6 in repair and \$10 in reconstruction work. We know that roads cost more taxpayer dollars when they are not maintained. Choosing to maintain our roads today is the financially responsible and fiscally conservative approach.

Voting YES will save Utah families money, protect the local businesses, and preserve our quality of life.

Please Vote YES for Prop 1.

Signed, Beaver County Commissioners

### ARGUMENT AGAINST

If approved, the combined state and local sales tax in Beaver County will increase from 5.95% to 6.2% countywide and push it over 7% in Beaver City -- a change that will increase taxes in Beaver by \$260,000, or \$40 per person and \$160 for an average family of four every year. This could mean the difference between a week or more of groceries for many families.

Utah families have had enough new taxes this year as it is. The local option sales tax would be the third tax increase Utah residents have faced this year. In March, the legislature voted to approve a 5-cent-per-gallon increase in the gas tax, which now means that Utah drivers will pay over 48-cents-per-gallon just in taxes every time they fill up the tank. The state legislature also raised homeowner's property taxes in the valley an average of \$50 per home.

Considered separately, these tax increases may not sound like much, but for lower-income and middle-class families, every dollar counts and higher local sales taxes would only make their financial struggles worse.

Like the gas tax increase, this sales tax will fall hardest on those who have little or nothing left at the end of the month. According to the Utah Taxpayers Association, the average Utahn already pays \$720 in sales taxes every year, and \$3,304 in combined state and local taxes. The local option tax would add a few cents to most purchases, which quickly adds up.

If the sales tax increase is passed, Utahns would pay a quarter of a cent more for all purchases. In Beaver County, this increased sales tax would scrape \$260,000 out of our checkbooks, according to the state's own analysis.

Supporters say that the proposed tax increase is, in part, for road and infrastructure improvement. But elected officials can choose to spend this money on trails, bike lanes and sidewalks instead of road improvement. Trails are nice but we should consider needs versus wants when asking to increase taxes on Beaver County families already facing two other tax increases.

Instead, our government should be looking toward prioritizing existing funds, cutting down on waste, and reducing inefficiencies wherever they find them.

Government doesn't need more money—it needs to better prioritize where it spends the taxes we already pay. Please vote NO on Proposition 1.

Signed,  
Spencer B. White